



STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

August 1, 2014

Dear Driver Education Provider,

Hope you are all having a wonderful "Pure Michigan" summer, which was certainly a long time coming this year.

I wanted to briefly update you on several items here at the Michigan Secretary of State's Office, including recent recognition for our driver education program from a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration-sponsored panel of national experts. See the full press release [here](#).

The panel called our driver education program "exemplary." Michigan is the seventh state to go through the voluntary assessment sponsored by NHTSA. Experts from five states reviewed our driver education program, identified strengths, accomplishments and problem areas, and offered suggestions for improvements, which we are exploring. I'm very proud of our traffic safety team and want to thank each of you for your role in making driver education in this state so effective.

Also, I wanted to let you know about a new partnership between Big Brothers and Big Sisters (BBBS) and one provider who has offered scholarships for at-risk kids so they can go through driver education at no cost. All Star Driver Education and the T. Wall Foundation are providing 50 scholarships for Little Brothers and Sisters across the state. BBBS is also encouraging their "Bigs" or adults to serve as driving coaches and mentors for their Little Brother or Sister.

If you'd like more information about that program, please contact Linda Lee Tarver in my office at 517-373-3736 or tarverl@michigan.gov. As you know, there are more than 300 driver education providers in the state and I know many of you are actively involved in trying to make a difference in your communities. There may be worthwhile organizations in your area that would like to partner on similar efforts.

Finally, I would encourage you to sign up for our official Secretary of State newsletter by visiting our website at michigan.gov/sos and clicking on the red envelope.

On behalf of the people of the State of Michigan, thank you for your ongoing commitment, dedication and hard work in saving lives and keeping the roads safer for all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth A. Johnson".

Ruth Johnson
Michigan Secretary of State